

## Original Goals

1. To serve as a nonprofit enterprise.
2. To remain nonpartisan in politics.
3. To remain neutral in religious matters.
4. To print news accurately and regularly.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 41, Number 1

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, November 24, 1977

## News Review Marks 40th Anniversary

### Remembering Al Skolnik-- His Contributions To Greenbelt

by Sandra Barnes

Rarely does a person come along who, without being an elected official or an employee of a governmental body, influences nearly every important activity in a community. Alfred M. Skolnik, president of the **Greenbelt News Review** for 18 years, was such a person. Al died suddenly of a heart attack in March of this year.

"If ever anyone fit the title 'pillar of the community', it was Al," former **News Review** editor and close personal friend, Harry Zubkoff related. "In both his personal life and his public life, his conduct, behavior and moral principles were impeccable. His whole life was a contribution," Zubkoff affirmed.

Most people will become associated with one issue or another. And, more often than not, their own personality will dominate that issue. Not so with Al. For more than two decades, he was a major figure in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. board and city council meetings; but he, himself, stayed in the background, asking questions, probing, writing position papers and issue-oriented stories.

We on the **News Review** staff cannot celebrate the 40th anniversary of this newspaper without paying tribute to the person who held this paper together for much of that time, who structured its editorial policies, who put it on a sound financial footing after many years of teetering on the brink of disaster. In many ways, this paper has been able to continue following his death without any perceptible change because the patterns he established are so securely rooted. Together with his wife, Elaine, he lovingly brought forth each issue of the **News Review** with a consummate dedication to the smallest detail.

#### Analytical Style

As a reporter, Al exhibited his own personal characteristics: an analytical style which stripped away at the extraneous to get to the basic issues. Zubkoff believes "He brought to his reports a measure of objectivity, precision and coherence which added a dimension to the public understanding of public issues . . ." Citizens could rely on Al's reports as being a fair reflection of what occurred. His friends sometimes criticized him for "bending over backwards" to present opposing viewpoints.

But Al was not only a reporter. When he covered a city council meeting, he often injected his own comments on affairs of the city. His was a strong voice in urging acquisition of parkland and major capital improvements, community planning and controlled growth. And council members listened to his views — not just because they found their way into the editorials of the **News Review** — but because of, as city manager James Giese expressed it, "his good judgment."

One frequently saw Al stand up at a council meeting, his high-pitched voice bursting with impatience when members strayed from the basic issues as he saw them, "You shouldn't worry about that," he would lecture; "let the city manager take care of it." In this way, also, he expressed his strong support for the council-manager form of government.

Al's influence on the city was more low-keyed than his influence on GHI policy matters. As a long-time member of GHI, perhaps he felt more of a need to participate. One never found Al attending pre-election GHI strategy meetings or actively campaigning to get out the vote, but he was always involved. Al's interests ran more to issues than to candidacies. Beginning in the late 1950's, in one way or another, he participated in all important GHI policy decisions.

The tersely-worded editorials printed in the **News Review** for 20 years exemplified both Al's writing style and his character. In one or two short paragraphs, he identified the issues and presented the paper's viewpoint.

#### Sacrifice

One cannot begin to relate what the four-year (1966-1970) two million dollar libel suit against the **News Review** and the Skolniks meant to their personal life. (The 35th anniversary issue of the **News Review** dealt primarily with the "Anatomy of a Libel Suit"). The entire community rallied around the Skolniks, and in many ways the suit had a unifying effect on the city. But, in "reaffirming the freedom of the press," Al's long-time friend, Charlie Schwan recalled, "the Skolnik family had to sacrifice for the rest of us . . . The libel suit dragged on for so long, that I almost forgot that Al smiled," Schwan reflected.

Besides the city council and GHI affairs, Al was devoted to the bi-monthly duplicate bridge games, now at the Youth Center. For many years, he directed these Friday night games. But, often, he himself did not play; he held himself in reserve to play only if someone else showed up without a partner.

#### News Review

Without question, the **News Review** was Al's passion. "He was the single thread of continuity which kept the paper not merely alive, but thriving for two decades," Zubkoff stated. He

See AL SKOLNIK, page 2, column 1



Greenbelt's Own Newspaper	Greenbelt, Maryland	Published by its Citizens
Vol. 1, No. 1	Published Every Wednesday	November 24, 1937
<b>NEW GROCERY STORE TO OPEN HERE SOON</b> ----- Co-Op Gas Station Starts Operations ----- Opening date of the new store has, for several weeks, vied for honors with the bus service and politics as the most popular conversation piece in Greenbelt; and it is felt that at this time some word of its progress will be welcome.  While Consumer Services is ready to open the store, there will be some delay until the premises are ready for occupation. Electricity and refrigeration have not yet been provided for, and as several holes have yet to be drilled through the eight inches of concrete floor, and plumbing lines have to be run through the building, it is unlikely that the store will be ready for several days.  This announcement was made with deep regret by Mr. R. M. Templeman, store manager, who had hoped for an earlier opening date.  The filling station, by way of compensation, has now been operating for several days. This will also be run according to the cooperative principle, meaning that the Greenbelt car owner may now buy gas as well as groceries cooperatively. ---	<b>JOURNALISTIC CLUB BEGINS WORK ON NEWSPAPER</b> ----- Consumer Services Aids Greenbelt Weekly ----- The Greenbelt Journalistic Club held its first meeting Thursday evening, November 11, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayes, 35 O Ridge Road.  More than fifteen persons participated in a general discussion on the best methods now available for the distribution of authentic news and announcements in Greenbelt.  Several attending the meeting summarized their personal experiences in publicity and newspaper work and volunteered their services as reporters.  Tentatively, a plan was suggested to issue six numbers of the <i>Cooperator</i> , a weekly journal, covering matters of local community interest.  The principle generally adopted by club members is that any bulletin or newspaper in the community shall be non-partisan in politics, and cooperatively designed.  As its first venture the club will sponsor the Greenbelt <i>Cooperator</i> with the assistance of Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc.  The club elected the following officers: Louis Bensener, president; William R. Poole, vice president. ---	
(Continued on Page Two)		(Continued on Page Seven)

#### VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

This is how the first page of the first issue of the **Greenbelt Cooperator** looked. The first issue appeared on November 24, 1937 and consisted of 16 letter-sized mimeographed pages of local news and editorial content.

## NEWS REVIEW COMPLETES 40 YRS. OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

If you look at the masthead of today's **Greenbelt News Review**, you will observe the notation "Volume 41, Number 1" Simply speaking, this means that with this issue the **News Review** has completed 40 years of continuous publication. The first issue, then titled the **Greenbelt Cooperator**, appeared 40 years ago to the day on November 24, 1937 and consisted of 16 letter-size mimeographed pages. The first families had organized themselves to issue the paper within six weeks of unpacking their household belongings.

Maintaining the continuity of the weekly newspaper has been a notable accomplishment in view of the fact that the paper is dependent on a continuous stream of volunteers. Much is owed to those early pioneers who recognized the immediate need for a news medium to keep people informed of local events and to provide a forum for the exchange of views. They laid down the principles that still guide the actions of the present **News Review** — a non-partisan non-profit, cooperative endeavor whose aims are to print the news accurately and fairly and to reflect the Greenbelt "good neighbor" philosophy of life.

At first the paper was prepared at the homes of various staff members. In January 1938 the Federal Government (which owned Greenbelt at that time) made space available at the center, free of cost, and also loaned much-needed furniture, typewriters, and office equipment. From its original second-floor quarters in the commercial center, the paper moved its offices four times before finally coming to rest in the present basement office at 15 Parkway.

With the withdrawal of the Federal Government from town, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Greenbelt Development Corporation, continued the Federal policy of providing free office space, with the paper reimbursing the corporation for out-of-pocket expenses.

#### Free Delivery

An important development in the history of the newspaper was the decision to deliver the **Cooperator** free of charge to every home in

town, beginning with the issue of September 7, 1939. The additional cost of local distribution was small, and this radical change of policy provided larger circulation figures, which could be used as evidence of the value of advertising in the **Cooperator**, once its distribution had become community wide. The town government engaged more and more space for the publication of pending ordinances, budgets and the like.

The policy of free distribution remained unchanged until July 1953, when the paper was forced by financial straits to go to a subscription basis — \$3 a year. The response was fairly encouraging, but the added cost of maintaining subscription records convinced the governing body that the additional income was not worth the additional workload. In January, 1955, the paper returned to city-wide circulation.

Financial difficulties continued to plague the newspaper, and appeals were made to the businesses and organizations in town for funds. Finally, in April, 1959, the **News Review** resorted to a house-to-house community-wide drive for funds. Organized by the drive chairman Elaine Skolnik, who was aided by 125 volunteer court collectors, the drive netted over \$1,500. It proved such an unqualified success that it was renewed again the following year.

The yield from these drives was sufficient to meet the needs and no drives have been conducted since 1960; however, a fund drive was launched in 1966 by the Greenbelt Freedom of the Press Committee to help the paper defend itself against libel charges.

## Original Goals

5. To make its pages an open forum for civic affairs.
6. To develop a staff of volunteer writers.
7. To create a "Good Neighbor" spirit, promote friendship, advance the common good, and develop a "Greenbelt philosophy" of life.—November 24, 1937

### My Side . . . Of the Budget Story

by Helen Geller

My dear friend Elaine Skolnik did a number on me.

"I have so much trouble understanding budgets" she said, "and I can't find anyone else to do it. How about helping me write the story of the recreation budget hearing?"

Can you imagine anyone falling for a line like that? But I did only too late remembering some important things such as: I hate to write (I owe letters to people on four continents); I associate the word "budget" with the flowering of Harvey's language every time he discovers that my checkbook and the bank statement don't even have a nodding acquaintance and most important of all, the **News Review** is so desperate for reporters, editors, etc., if you can find your way to the pencil sharpener you're hired.

On the appointed evening we showed up at Council chambers where I promptly endeared myself to Councilman Richard Castaldi by stopping him in mid-air as he started to light up a cigarette. (I'm allergic to smoke, I sweetly explained.)

Things went downhill from then on. As everyone batted figures back and forth, I idly wondered where Hank Irving would find half a recreation assistant. (It turned out half-time at each center.) Fighting an overwhelming desire to curl up under the table, (I perked up a bit during a lively discussion on the merits of lockers vs. baskets.) I foggedly wondered if I would make it to the end, and was saved by of all things—my nose which was frantically signalling that it was allergic to something in the room and if I didn't get out in a hurry I would have a two day headache. As a reporter, I had covered myself with glory.

So please, will some bright government type or some bright college type — will any type at all — please volunteer to save the honor of the **News Review** and agree to cover the next budget hearing. Just show up at the **N.R.** office Tuesday night and find your way to the pencil sharpener. It's your patriotic duty.

May 12, 1977

This special edition of the **News Review** stresses the last five years of publication. In November of 1967 and again in 1972, 30th and 35th anniversary issues were published, copies of which are still available at the office.

Staff members Sandra Barnes, Mary Lou Williamson, Leta Mach, Janet James and Barbara Likowski prepared this issue. Mike Jones obtained the advertising.

#### Libel Suit

The libel charges arose out of the paper's publication of remarks by citizens at a public city council meeting regarding a proposal made to the city by a local developer, Charles Bresler. A Prince Georges County jury found the remarks libelous and a \$17,500 judgment, awarded Bresler was later affirmed by the Maryland Court of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court however, in May 1970, reversed and vacated the judgment, ruling that the **News Review** was "performing its wholly legitimate function as a community newspaper when it published full reports of these public debates in its news columns." To hold otherwise, the high court said, "would subvert the most fundamental principle of the First Amendment." See **HISTORY**, pg. 5, col. 3



## NEWS REVIEW EDITORS SINCE 1962

Virginia Beauchamp	June 1962 - December 1962
Russell S. Greenbaum	January 1963 - June 1963
Dorothy Sucher	July 1963 - September 1963
Mary Lou Williamson	February 1964 - October 1964
Dorothy Sucher	November 1964 - December 1965
Mary Lou Williamson	January 1966 - February 1967
Mary Smith Granofsky	March 1967 - October 1972
Mary Lou Williamson	November 1972 -



Al and Elaine Skolnik receive Outstanding Citizens Award plaque from Bill Lawson, chairman of the 1974 Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

Al and Elaine were recognized for their many years of service to the community, largely through the News Review.

— Labor Day Festival, 1974

## AL SKOLNIK from page one

devoted nearly every evening and many week-ends to the myriad tasks necessary to the publication of the newspaper. Al covered a city council or GHI meeting almost every week. Neither severe weather conditions nor illness would prevent his coming to the News Review office on Tuesday night. When he occasionally went out of town, he would return by 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Wednesday is make-up night, and Al was always there to give his final okay. Thursday morning, if no one else could go to the print shop to proofread the paper for the last time, he would go.

When the News Review couldn't find anyone to handle the business desk, he became the business manager. Most of the administrative work was done by him. He kept an "inch book" which detailed the amount of advertising in each issue of the News Review. He maintained a crude index on every major subject the News Review reported on. However, he did not always have to refer to back issues as his mind was a storehouse of information from which he could easily retrieve even remote facts.

He was a fiscal conservative who would not print more than a four-page paper unless there was enough advertising to support it. In spite of the baleful expression of the editor, whose desk was laden with copy, he stubbornly maintained his position.

When he arrived home each evening, he greeted his wife and children with the perennial question, "What happened in Greenbelt today?" and he'd eagerly digest each detail.

## Outstanding Citizen

Al and Elaine Skolnik were selected "Outstanding Citizens" in 1974 by the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee. And Al, though he surely would not have sought the title, "enjoyed the recognition," said Charlie Schwan.

Zubkoff quotes Thomas Jefferson who wrote, "This is man's highest calling, for the existence of democracy depends on an informed citizenry," and Al devoted a good part of his life to that cause. Though he is gone, the News Review and the city have been forever shaped and colored by his presence.

## Congratulations to

## THE NEWS REVIEW

Forty years of Service

Consumers Supermarket, 121 Centerway

## On The Lighter Side

Some very strange, interesting and amazing stories appeared in the News Review over the last five years. In case you have forgotten any, we reprint them for your pleasure.

A strange and interesting phenomenon has recently been reported by pet owners. Clocks in homes where pet cats and dogs have been fitted with the newly available tick destroying collars have been noted to lose approximately twelve hours per day. This has been found to be caused by the complete loss of ticks by the clocks. The remaining ticks account for the difference.

— October 2, 1975

On the morning of May 18, James McCallister and his son, Jim, 5 years old, of 18-A Ridge Road, were fishing from a rubber boat in Greenbelt Lake. Suddenly, Jim got a bite in his line. He was unable to hold on, so his father took over. After landing the fish, James noticed that it was exceptionally large. He measured the catfish and found it was two feet in length and weighed six pounds. All fishermen take notice — you, too, may catch the BIG ONE.

— May 20, 1976

A lady, Mrs. M. L. Gadd, living in Bylesville, Ohio, dreamed that her family's lost pet beagle, Dutchie is alive and well—and living in Springhill Lake, Md., a locality she claims she never heard of before it appeared in her nocturnal meanderings.

It seems that a grandson took Dutchie to a car wash, located near a major highway, and the dog jumped from the car—never to be seen again. Mrs. Gadd feels that perhaps a truck driver found Dutchie and carried her to Maryland where she now resides, awaiting the birth of puppies. If so six grandchildren in Ohio are awaiting news of Dutchie, and anyone knowing of her whereabouts should contact Mrs. Gadd, 301 W. Main St., Bylesville, Ohio.

May 10, 1975

Streaking among bramble bushes can be anything but funny! This sorry discovery was made by three juveniles who were streaking at Greenbelt Lake Saturday night.

Apprehended by city police after midnight, the three were so cut by brambles that instead of taking them to the municipal building, police stopped at the firehouse. There the three were given showers and first aid for their wounds, some of which were in very delicate places. They were then released to the custody of their parents.

Some streakers seem to come to a sore end!

— April 18, 1974

## Greenbelters Enjoy Snowy Weather

by Mary Lou Williamson

Out came all the skates from closets and attics; out came the sleds from basements and garages. The coldest and snowiest January in a decade has hit Greenbelt. The green flag was hoisted announcing skating at the lake on News Year's eve; it stayed up ten days! County schools closed a day and a half, some government workers found their agencies closed one day and police spent much of their time trying to track down juveniles seen throwing snowballs at moving cars. January is not half over.

The cold and snow have thus far facilitated a lot of fun, some inconvenience, but, surprisingly, no real trouble. The police report no unusual rise in the traffic accident rate and Greenbelt Homes Inc. maintenance reports no unusual cold weather related problems.

## Skating

Probably the greatest show of enthusiasm for the cold has been demonstrated by the skaters who flocked to the lake on New Year's weekend. "It looked like the Fourth of July" said Recreation director Hank Irving. He estimated that 2,000 people of all ages did just about everything they could think of on the ice — skating, sledding, some played frisbee, others ice hockey. One man, wearing skis and a body-kite, whizzed across the lake, blown by the blustery

wind.

The red "No Skating" signs went up Jan. 10 after freezing rain, snow and some thawing had made the ice unsafe. The ice is now considered layered, old and rotten. Irving does not expect this ice to provide any more good skating, even if it should freeze hard enough to be safe. The surface is too rough.

## Sledding

The ice crusted snow is making some of the best sledding ever experienced here. The slightest hill provides a ride and the steep hills leading down to the underpasses are for the skilled only. The long hill from the playground at Northway and Ridge to the underpass is one of the longest non-stop rides. Children in the neighborhood are out sledding before breakfast, the older ones are still sledding after dark. But before anyone rushes out to purchase a sled, we suggest telephoning to locate a store that is not sold out.

## Street Clearing

If the public works crew members looked a bit weary last week, here's why. The six men who work the night-time snow and ice shift plowing and salting streets literally worked night and day. Thursday the crew worked from midnight 'til 8 a.m. and then worked the regular day shift. On Sunday the crew began salting and plowing

When a local resident refused to sign a traffic citation, Officer Paul Duprat advised him that failure to do so could result in his arrest. (Signing a citation is not an admission of guilt but a promise to appear in court.)

Upset, the resident began directing traffic, but after being cautioned by Officer Duprat, he signed the citation. However, he then threw the ticket into the street. Duprat requested that he retrieve the piece of paper or there could be another violation this one for littering. The man scooped up the ticket, rolled it into a ball, put it into his mouth, chewed vigorously, swallowed the contents, jumped into his car and took off.

There are two questions: How indigestible is a traffic citation? How will he remember when to appear in court?

— July 3, 1975

— December 14, 1975

## RESOLUTION



A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING "THE GREENBELT COOPERATIVE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, INC." BETTER KNOWN AS THE "NEWS REVIEW" ON ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, During the month of November, 1977 "THE GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW" more formally known as the "Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc." is observing its Fortieth Anniversary, and

WHEREAS, During these past forty years "The Greenbelt News Review" (previously known as "The Cooperator") has faithfully served the community and has played an important role in disseminating to the citizens of Greenbelt the news of the city, the actions of the City Council, and information touching on the lives of its citizens, and

WHEREAS, During these forty years, the "Greenbelt News Review" has played a much greater role than just being the local newspaper which keeps its citizenry informed and which provides a forum for the expressions of opinions by the residents of the community on the many issues touching on our daily lives, and

WHEREAS, This greater role has been evidenced by its leadership in the important fight for the freedom of the press, which was vindicated by a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court, by its outspokenness and critical and candid appraisal of the many issues that have faced the community during these past forty years, and by its inquisitiveness and vigilance on all matters concerning our community, and

WHEREAS, this standard of excellence has been established by the people who have so unstintingly given of their time — the editors, the reporters, the business managers, and the staff — both present and past, and who continue to serve the citizens quietly and without evident recognition from week to week, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Members of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the citizens of Greenbelt, its thanks and grateful appreciation to all those who have worked so hard and diligently during these past forty years to make "The Greenbelt News Review" the respected paper it is and has been, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council extend to the "Greenbelt News Review" its sincere congratulations on the occasion of the "FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY" of the publication of its first "Cooperator."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, at its Special Meeting, November 16, 1977.

Richard Pleski  
Mayor

about 5:30 p.m., worked till 8 a.m. and then worked all day again.

And how's the salt holding out? It's not. The large pile ordered at the beginning of the year ran out Wednesday night. On Thursday the city managed to get their trucks filled with county salt — not quite the quality they are used to. Public works Director Buddy Attick ordered six loads of salt from Baltimore, but that company's salt ran out before they could fill Greenbelt's order. So the city has now ordered from another company and hopes to get delivery Friday. In the meantime, they hope to refill the trucks with county salt, just in case.

## Police

Snow has had some effect, though not much, on the Greenbelt police department. A few more accidents, looking for kids throwing snowballs at cars and trying to keep people off the ice when they're not supposed to be there.

One motorist had a few bad moments Friday noon as he drove along Ridge Road in front of the Mowatt Methodist Church. Several four-foot snowballs had been rolled onto the road so as to create a slalom for cars. Fortunately, he met no one coming the other way. Police were advised of the hazard. The motorist found the road cleared when he returned to work after lunch.

— January 18, 1977



## Greenbelt-An Ideal City for Many

As far as Greenbelt is concerned, the Post Office seems to be an ideal location, if you must lose your wallet. I tried it.

On September 30, don't ask me how, I lost my wallet. I realized the discouraging fact late in the evening. Nervously thinking back for all the possible losing locations — nuts I probably left it at D. or S., I whispered to myself and somebody there did not miss the chance

I was already prepared for a hectic morning; notifying the credit card firms, you know . . . when it came to my mind that — yes, I paid a visit to the local Post Office. Somehow I was confident that if my assumption was correct — the honest civil servants there will keep it for me untouched.

I was grave and tense when I approached the Post Office on Saturday morning but the blonde handsome clerk was smiling —

When I walked out of the Post Office, it was the wallet and that smile that I carried with me and both I don't intend to lose again.

— October 13, 1977

\* \* \*

After 15 years of living in this community, it never ceases to amaze me as to what a fine community we have here, and how friendly and cooperative people are.

As a believer in reincarnation, I think that all citizens of Greenbelt must have done a lot of good things in their past lives to live here. It is truly a privilege to be a Greenbelt, and we must all be proud of this.

— April 29, 1976

\* \* \*

I have a mom and dad, and mother-in-law living in Greenbelt. This would be my home also, but the size of my family rules it out.

Just in passing I would like to comment on some of the improvements going on. The new city map on Southway with its stone-wall presents a pleasing entrance to Greenbelt. The sandblasting of the paint off the bricks on the Center shops and surrounding homes looks nice. The natural bricks add a touch of warmth to an already warm community. It will also save on yearly upkeep for paint.

The new "solar collectors" on Southway also show that Greenbelters are way ahead of others, and know how to use resources wisely.

I understand that your new high school will be named after the grand lady who had a hand in making Greenbelt the marvelous place it is today.

I don't know who is responsible for all the ideas and workmanship; but whoever it is, keep up the good work. Thank you for making Greenbelt such a nice place to live.

— January 29, 1976

\* \* \*

What makes Greenbelt special? Its tree lined streets, its parks and playgrounds, its woods and walkways, its friendly feelings, its community commitment to a wholesome and healthy environment?

These are among my family's reasons for living in Greenbelt . . .

— August 29, 1974

\* \* \*

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival's theme of "Unity Through Community Involvement" was never more evident than at this year's Festival. No one community event seems to involve so many diverse elements in the city as the Festival.

— September 16, 1976

To the city's Public Works Dept.:

I want to express my appreciation for the many it's-good-to-be-alive mornings and the glad-you're-home-again evenings you provide via rainbow beds of tulips, flowering trees, and neatly trimmed grass areas. The dull rainy days of the past weeks have emphasized to me the real need for eye beauty in one's community. It refreshes; it relaxes.

I want all of you to know how grateful I am for your hard work and I believe many Greenbelters are signing their name in spirit along with mine.

— May 8, 1975

\* \* \*

I think the citizens of Greenbelt should commend the fire departments of Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, and Branchville. Whether it is a real alarm or a false alarm, these men (most of whom are volunteers) respond as if their own homes were affected . . .

I feel better knowing that within a few minutes after an alarm has been turned in that firemen will be arriving. Every second counts when fire breaks out, when there is gas leakage or some other major problem. Even if it turns out to be a false alarm. Greenbelt residents should sleep better knowing that help will be there within a few minutes. If this is an example of how the fire departments respond to alarms, then we should be glad to live in a community like Greenbelt.

— January 10, 1974

\* \* \*

Comments about the community of Greenbelt by visiting friends and relatives have caused me to reflect. Being on vacation and enjoying the

## Issues That Spark Complaints

Generally, the city and the city council of Greenbelt are the recipients of compliments by the citizens. But, some issues spark complaints.

A visit to the Lake Park last Sunday . . . revealed again that our lake is a very popular site for the community. City council . . . has created a further burden to citizens seeking use of the lake for leisurely recreation by giving a few Greenbelters (I guess 15 to 20) exclusive use of an area of the Lake-Park south of the Municipal Building for garden sites. While gardening is an excellent recreational activity which is rewarded by wholesome food, I seriously question the prudence in council's action. The area in question has been proposed by Park and Recreational Advisory Board (PRAB) as a designated ball playing area in the Lake-Park Master Plan which is now before council. Presently there is no designated ball playing area in the Lake-Park, except Braden Field.

Citizens, is it equitable to use only a part of the park land for garden sites? Why not use the dam area, Braden Field, McDonald Field and best of all drain the Lake (a fine fertile area with a stream for irrigation) for garden sites for all the rest of us tax payers.

— March 7, 1974

\* \* \*

My wife and I visit the lake park nearly every day. Whenever we tour the park on foot, we habitually pick up beer cans, candy wrappers, and other litter. These tokens of our "throwaway" civilization catch our attention just as reflexively as they were discarded

relaxation tremendously has added to the pensive mood which prompts this letter. Why do visits to Greenbelt evoke comment about the sense of community that exists here? Let me attempt to list the reasons, in no particular order:

The award winning modifications to Southway so expertly tended by city crews.

The city government judiciously administered by Jim Giese, a professional in the best sense of the word.

The city employees who, for the most part, are sincerely interested in our well being and who are best exemplified perhaps in Buddy Attick and Chief Lane.

The mayor and council who, being politicians, "do their thing" but by and large, seem to sense our long run best interests.

The citizens who participate in the myriad of committees, clubs and organizations which contribute to good government and more importantly a solid recreation program for everyone.

The recycling program, vigorous, growing, leading for others to follow, worthy of the cooperative spirit which is a part of our heritage.

The News Review for providing the vital glue that binds us — communication. Sometimes ill conceived, sometimes controversial, sometimes straining to be so, but always there.

The neighbors, who like you, work hard to make a living, to raise a decent family, to assure a respectable neighborhood. To sum it up, it's pride that is the basis for the sense of community which is almost immediately apparent to the visitors among us. If you have not yet sensed this yourself and most of you probably have — look around — Greenbelt is okay.

— October 11, 1973

## A FAREWELL

# Mary Granofsky -- A Decade of Service

by Sandra Barnes

Some ten years ago a woman wandered down a short flight of stairs to the basement headquarters of the **Greenbelt News Review**. Timidly she approached the editor. She didn't like to write and she couldn't type — but she could spell. Did the **News Review** have any need of such a person?

As often happens, the editor and his assistants were busy handling one crisis involving city council and another involving GHI and another involving controversial letters-to-the-editor. It was a typical Tuesday night and no one talked much to the new person or showed her anything to do so she wandered out again.

It was six months before she returned. A call had gone out urging anyone with an interest in community service to come to the **News Review** and the woman was spurred to come back. The people were again frenzied and desperate for help — another typical Tuesday night. This time, however, the editor taught her how to count letters for headlines and Mary Granofsky (formerly Smith) carved her niche in the **News Review**. For the next nine years she taught everyone who came down to work on the paper how to count letters for headlines.

A little over a year later Mary became assistant editor. "Everyone else was having babies," she said. By this time also she was doing the make-up on Wednesday nights and often went down to the print shop on Thursday mornings to read the page proofs.

In 1967 Mary became editor. It was a position she did not welcome but one she held for 5½ years, until the fall of 1972 when she again assumed the smaller responsibilities of the assistant editor. Mary had not enjoyed the hassles of editorship, the responsibility of handling people whose letters-to-the-editor contained outrageous but cherished beliefs or libelous material. But she was a master organizer and a crackerjack at dealing with what she describes as the "housekeeping chores", seeing that the printer had all the necessary instructions for the next issue and that all the heads were in order. Few spelling errors or mistakes in sentence structure got by Mary's eagle eye and red pencil.

And Mary points with pride to some minor but momentous events which occurred during her stewardship. "The last time the **News Review** office was cleaned was when I became editor," she boasted. "Also it was the second to last time that the ice box was cleaned and the furniture was moved around." Nothing has been changed since.

Another memorable moment in Mary's editorship was "The Night of the Open House (in 1971) when the lights went out."

However, Mary describes one of the biggest events in her life as the **News Review** lawsuit. The **News Review** fought a 4-year and \$2,000,000 lawsuit filed against it by real estate developer Charles Bresler. The case went from the lower courts, which held for Bresler, to the Court of Appeals, which sustained the circuit court decision. But the paper was finally vindicated in the U. S. Supreme Court. The litigation took many staff hours and Mary Granofsky gave much of her time during those four years to proof-reading the briefs filed in the courts. "I consider that I've done two really good things in my life," Mary explained, "and they were raising good children and working on the **News Review** suit."

Mary's love and dedication to the **News Review** were clearly evident over the decade of service. Of recent years, however, she had become discouraged by the criticism aimed at the paper, "We always bent over backwards to be fair," she proclaimed, "but we were always being accused of being a monopoly or of not printing letters or of not printing what everyone said at a meeting."

With her move to New Carrollton in recent weeks, Mary has resigned from the **News Review**. She knows she will miss the paper just as she already misses Greenbelt. In her new surroundings she cannot find a vinegar cruet at Ben Franklin, a crossword puzzle at the tobacco shop, go to the post office, the food store, and the bank all in one stop — always while meeting people she knows.

"Greenbelt was the best place to raise children . . . and the **News Review** is the best thing for the town," Mary observed. "I got to know how the town worked . . . I lived in Greenbelt for 16 years . . . it was tough to leave."

It is tough for the **News Review** to say goodbye to Mary. We will miss her good work and her London accent. We will miss her.

— September 6, 1973

## CONGRATULATIONS

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# GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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Celebrates its 40th anniversary in December 1977

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1976 — the Nation's 200th Birthyear — provided many opportunities for celebrating our own unique community life: the July Fourth festivities and the Labor Day festival brought forth reflective editorials.

## Promise Fulfilled

A curious retrospective view of the promise of Greenbelt, staged in the bicentennial showing of an almost forty-year-old documentary, "The City," seemed to give significance to the festive weekend. The July Fourth celebration was somehow an affirmation of the film's thesis — that the quality of life for all of us is enhanced when we dwell among neighbors with whom we mutually share activities and the pleasures of nature. Sitting in the library meeting room, virtually on the site where the long-ago cameraman caught an uphill scramble of happy children running toward Center School, viewers could reflect on how Greenbelt had grown through those decades since its founding.

The city is greener. Trees and shrubs blot out views of apartment buildings and row houses that once stood open.

But the companionability, the mutual enjoyment of cooperative effort were evident everywhere — the bicentennial bell-ringing and special commemorative program, that drew many of us to the mall on Sunday, the athletic events, the family swimming, and of course the fireworks display that has become an annual tradition for this community and our neighbors.

Everything went off without a hitch. No one was seriously injured; good feeling was endemic. Sharing the bicentennial became the fulfillment of the planners' promise.

— July 8, 1976

## A Weekend Filled With Variety

Again the seasons roll 'round — the autumn opening and the summer ending as they do each year in Greenbelt with the community festival. It would be hard to imagine one more perfect. The pleasant notes struck earlier in the summer chimed again — the good fellowship of our Bicentennial remembrances of the nation's past, the non-rancorous conventions. (We were thinking of some of the parade floats, with their patriotic themes, and the ubiquitous and genial politicians who came to call.) The joys of the Olympics were suggested also in the parade visit of Sugar Ray Leonard.

The divisive issue of an earlier time — busing and desegregation — had disappeared, and the idea suggested in the selection of the lovely and first black Miss Greenbelt that we can live together. The women's issues seemed to have moved into the forefront (Planned Parenthood near Right-to-Life, NOW near the League of Women Voters in the festival booths). But if they led to acrimony and disharmony, we missed it.

The weather played us fair this year. The pancake breakfast was as good as ever, and the booth tenders as congenial. The continuous repast of delightful shows, good music, and good dancing — both on stage and before it — and the athletic events and special exhibits filled our weekend with variety.

In all, a fitting end to a Bicentennial summer of good fellowship — a package tied up in gold ribbon that contains the fruits of our community.

— September 9, 1976

### Congratulations News Review

1937 - 1977

### Greenbelt Convalescent Center

345-9595 7010 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, Md.

## Our Neighbors

"Our Neighbors" has been a regular column in the News Review for 22 years. Elaine Skolnik has been the writer for all of those years — and a major collector of Greenbelt's hard news and gentler items. Here are a few.

SHL's "first baby of the year," Sara Eden Knight Morrison made her debut on January 2. The title brought her and parents, Richard and Pauline Morrison of Springhill Court, a raft of gifts.

— February 14, 1974

Some participants rode in the Ride-a-Bike for the Retarded on April 21; one cyclist entered with 80 pledges!

— May 5, 1974

Under the direction of "General Manager" Judy Bausell (media specialist) and "Manager" Bruce Murray (University of Maryland student teacher of library science), the media center at Springhill Lake Elementary was recently transformed into the Card Catalog Restaurant. A fourth grade class took full charge as waiters, waitresses, chefs, hostesses, maitre d', cashier, dishwashers and busboys. The banquet was the culmination of a unit on using the card catalog.

The class was divided into two alternating groups, the diners and the servers. A diner requested a selection from a broad and varied menu of art, history, mystery, humor, science, etc. His order was briskly jotted down by the waiter and taken to the card catalog in the "kitchen." The "dish" was then located on the bookshelves and served on a tray to the diner. Dishwashers and busboys cleared the tables and filled the shelves. After twenty minutes, the groups changed places and the banquet continued.

— May 16, 1974

Can anyone top this? A luscious, squat, tomato weighing 2½ lbs. — 7" diameter, 19" circumference was raised by Dorothy Gonthier, 9 Ridge.

— August 15, 1974

It was "Merry Christmas in April" for City Manager James K. Giese. Just the other day he finally received a Christmas card mailed in November from Brienza, Switzerland. The elusive greeting card made stops in Greenhill, Nevada; Greenville, Mo.; and other "Green—" towns before the zipless hard-to-cipher address reached its correct destination.

— May 8, 1975

When Tom and Susan Clark's cat, Tiger, left home, they, quite naturally put an ad in the News Review. The paper came out as usual on Thursday. Tiger read the ad, and on Friday morning was back home.

— June 5, 1975

## Battles Royale A La Greenbelt

Seven years ago the United States Supreme Court encouraged "... The Greenbelt News Review" to continue "... performing its wholly legitimate function as a community newspaper ..." (in publishing) full reports of ... public debates in its news columns (The May 18, 1970 decision by the Supreme Court reversed a \$17,500 libel judgment against this newspaper.)

In two of the three examples below, we expressed "Our View" in an editorial; then our readers expressed their views — often complete with "rhetorical hyperbole" and "vigorous epithets." Each of the issues was argued hotly during the early months of 1974 and then settled — through an election, a vote of council and a membership vote — the very stuff of grass roots democracy encouraged through a free press.

### OUR VIEW

## Greenbelt CARES --

### A Common Good

One of the most important functions that can be carried on in a community is the helping and counseling of fellow human beings. Greenbelt CARES is doing this, and we are very fortunate to have such a group in our city undertaking this difficult job.

These individuals have worked hard to initiate a program in which both parents and their youngsters participate in the counseling process. This type of program has received high recommendations from staff members of the Department of Juvenile Services and other agencies who work with the problems of young people.

Traditionally, Greenbelt has been a town in which people have enjoyed working together for the common good. Greenbelt CARES is another organization which encompasses the work of volunteers in the community who serve on the board of CARES, a highly qualified technical director, an intensely dedicated administrative director and a professional staff of counsellors whose common efforts have already achieved successes. These individuals have accepted comparatively low salaries to work with the nearly 100 client-families, most of whom are from Greenbelt.

The stresses of our competitive society — which make it difficult for young adults and older people to find useful roles for themselves — can be seen all around us. The whole community will benefit from the efforts of Greenbelt CARES. This is an activity which the city council should support.

— February 21, 1974

## As Seen By Our Readers

The real question concerning the Greenbelt CARES is not whether we need or want such an organization but whether the city taxpayers can afford it. The answer is an emphatic NO

— February 14, 1974

Mr. Giese has champagne ideas while the residents can only afford a beer budget. One official once referred to Greenbelt as a Cadillac among the communities of this area. Well, it is time we traded that Cadillac in on a Volkswagen.

— May 2, 1974

"... CARES - ... will it become the Social Services Dept., similar to the Public Works, Recreation, etc.?"

May 9, 1974

... the issue is not whether the city can afford tax money for Greenbelt CARES, but whether it can NOT afford it

You ask if it might become similar to the "Public Works, Recreation, etc.?" Well, I hope so. I also hope mental health clinics and guidance centers can be accepted as a necessary and usual part of our world, just as are public libraries and public schools.

Everybody needs help at times — you and I too — even though this may be more obvious to other people than it is to ourselves. Furthermore, many of us who are now adults might have been happier people, better people had we had a place to go during our adolescence, where we could talk about our problems with our parents without being made to feel that "grateful" for the many things our parents did for us (and often to us).

You complain, ... because not ALL the taxpayers need the help of Greenbelt CARES. Be grateful. You carp because "less than 100 people are receiving these so-called services". Face it: all anyone has to do to receive the services is walk through the door.

You speak of the "so-called" services. Why not go to Greenbelt CARES yourself, personally, and see what they have done for some unhappy families? Don't throw stones without looking carefully at the target.

— May 16, 1974

Mental health clinics, staffed by qualified medical personnel, are accepted, just as are the public libraries and schools. These public clinics exist and are funded from the same tax base that provides the libraries and schools, i.e. Federal, State and County monies.

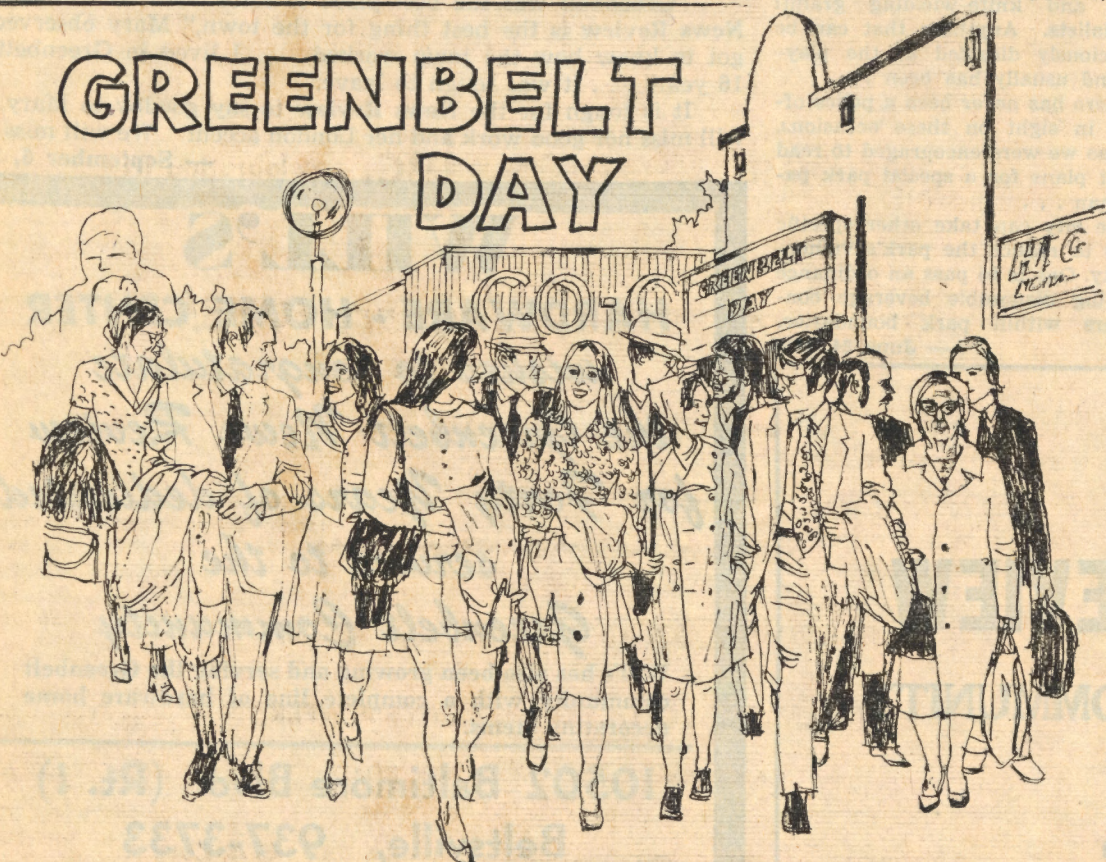
All anyone has to do to receive any of the above mentioned services is to walk in the door, so CARES is not unique in that respect.

No one to date has advocated that we duplicate, with municipal taxes, the existing public school and library system, so why should we be asked to duplicate existing public mental health facilities. Miss X appears to be suggesting that Greenbelt duplicate the county social services system.

Yes, everyone at times needs medical help, for the body or the mind, but very few go to the city council and request tax funds to pay those bills. Now, speaking of medical help, to the best of my knowledge, no staff member of Greenbelt CARES is a physician or a psychiatrist. (Will the real Greenbelt CARES please stand up, we seem to have two such organizations).

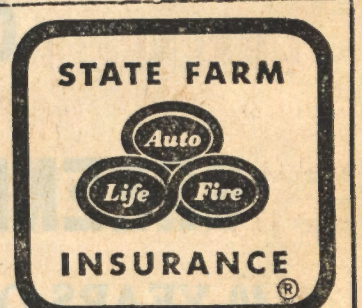
I have certainly never complained that not ALL the taxpayers need the services of a public mental health facility. If all the taxpayers of this city were in need of mental health care, this addeled taxpayer would beat feet out of here post haste.

— May 23, 1974



A member of the Lutheran Church penned this original drawing of the Center Mall filled with Greenbelters. The church, through the ad, was inviting other Greenbelters to visit the church on Greenbelt Day.

— February 27, 1975



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## Our View . . .

In early 1974 the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. membership was wrestling with how (and whether) to finance heat conservation measures in the face of mounting oil prices. The following editorial urged the membership to go ahead and bite the bullet, which it did.

By late 1977 some of those first heat conservation projects have already paid for themselves through more efficient use of fuel.

## GHI Must Face Facts

After all the whys and wherefores are discussed at this Wednesday's special membership meeting of Greenbelt Homes, Inc., these facts will still remain the same:

**Fact 1. GHI needs money now to continue its fuel-savings program.** Bids have already been received on \$173,000 worth of renovation work designed to up-grade the heating plants of the frame and brick homes. Engineering studies are on the way to price out the cost of insulating the crawl spaces of the frame homes and installing vapor barriers.

**Fact 2. The GHI reserves are not sufficient to finance the entire cost of these heating improvements.** Government National Mortgage Association, the holder of the GHI mortgage, has acknowledged that full use of reserves is already being made.

**Fact 3. This leaves borrowing as the only viable source of funds for GHI.** Such borrowing can take the form of a conventional loan from a commercial institution at 9½% interest rate or temporary deferment of GNMA mortgage principal payments at an interest cost of 4 percent.

**Fact 4. In order to qualify for the advantageous GNMA interest rate, GNMA has specified that GHI must raise its monthly charges to cover the mounting costs created by the energy crisis.**

Of course, there is one other course of action. Forget about the fuel-conservation program and hope for the best, such as lower fuel oil prices and no further deterioration in the heating plants. But persons advocating this course of action should at least be prepared for the more likely development that the heating costs of the corporation will continue to skyrocket at an astounding pace in the absence of a long-term fuel-conservation program. And if one was shocked by the huge increase in monthly charges last December, just imagine what the increases will be like in future years without the benefits of a long-range fuel-savings program.

— April 11, 1974

## As Seen By Our Readers . . .

... The time is long past when we can further claim that the cost of installing PROPER controls would be too costly. We have already spent untold thousands for unnecessary oil while trying to save a few pennies in installing proper controls . . .

— January 10, 1974

At a GHI membership meeting some months back, one of the ladies who writes letters to Congressmen told us that she'd written to U.S. Rep. Hogan asking about whether the prices GHI paid for oil weren't too high. According to what she told us, he replied it was too high. I don't recall her saying anything about her asking him to help us get more reasonably-priced oil, or his offering to help. That would have been constructive . . .

— April 4, 1974

... GHI is in a squeeze because of the oil crisis and lack of long term planning from our inception (everyone's fault), and we now need everyone's cooperation to surmount it.

— April 11, 1974

... Some of our members who write letters to the papers seem to be trying to convince our people that GHI alone in the whole world need not pay the additional costs of world-wide inflation. I am afraid they are trying to lead the members down a primrose path to the break-up and bankruptcy of our wonderful cooperative community. I wonder why! What do they expect to get out of it?

— April 11, 1974

Stop me if you have heard this one! . . .

— May 2, 1974

Only a person whose head is buried several feet in the sand can fail to see that as a result of this rising fuel oil deficit the amount of uncommitted cash reserves available for financing a heating improvement program is dwindling fast. GHI's choice is narrowing to that of borrowing for capital improvements or of having no heating improvement program at all . . .

Let's leave the ostriches where they belong, in the Sahara . . .

— March 28, 1974

## As Seen By Our Readers . . .

Twin Pines annual meeting and election drew more sparks than usual in 1974. A robust, though short-lived, sequence of letters-to-the-editor appeared in the News Review:

Twin Pines is, first and foremost, a savings and loan association. As such, Twin Pines must abide by all State laws and regulations. The fundamental duty of the Twin Pines Board of Directors is to keep Twin Pines in good standing with MSS-IC, the Maryland deposit insurance corporation.

However, there are no laws or regulations that preclude membership control. When proxies are given to the board of directors to vote as they see fit, control of Twin Pines resides in the hands of the Board majority. This may be as few as four men who may or may not be interested in retaining membership control. Any board person who controls a large number of proxies has a concentration of power that jeopardizes meaningful democratic control for the life of the proxy.

If you are interested in keeping responsible membership control of Twin Pines, come to the annual membership meeting on Feb. 26 . . .

— February 14, 1974

I couldn't begin to afford to buy the amount of space I need to even list the inadequacies and inaccuracies of the Twin Pines establishment.

My main idea has been a plea for communication with the members but from the examples we've had maybe we're lucky not to have been blessed with more . . .

— February 21, 1974

We are deeply disturbed by the personal and acrimonious nature of the Twin Pines board election campaign as conducted by one of the candidates. Such irresponsible and misleading charges cannot go unanswered or unclarified . . .

— February 21, 1974

"The heavens will not fall" — nor will Twin Pines — if B — or L — or W — or V — or J — or . . . either wins or loses in the voting for Twin Pines board of directors. The candidates have more in common than the campaign seems to indicate. All are able men dedicated to Twin Pines prosperity and growth. All incumbents — and B — too, as former board president during trying times and then as manager — are known in the community as men of charac-

ter and integrity. . . Unity in diversity is a democratic strength that characterized former boards and can be true again in future boards. In short, cool it, Twin Pines! . . .

— February 21, 1974

## Police Blotter

The Greenbelt Police are the recipients of all kinds of complaints, many serious and some amusing. The following is a sampling.

The scene - Greenbelt Police Headquarters - 4 people — 2 adult males and 2 juvenile females — are in custody for housebreaking. While officers are processing one adult and phoning the parents of the juveniles, the second adult is put in the hall under the watchful eye of the dispatcher. They are separated from one another by a glass window. When the dispatcher's attention is diverted by other police business, the suspect manages to steal the wallet out of the dispatcher's purse in the dispatcher's office. It is not til after the suspect is released that the wallet is discovered missing. Immediate investigation results in some of the wallet's contents being found at the home of the suspect's sister and he is charged with theft.

— August 22, 1974

An auto reported stolen in Springhill Lake was recovered at the Easy Times Arco on Breeze-wood Dr. A crane operator had received a call to pick up a disabled car, and accidentally removed one of the same type from a parking lot. Owner and vehicle were reunited.

— December 5, 1974

In the early morning hours a resident of Ridge Road called to report someone attempting to force entry to his house through the door. Officers responding to the scene found a newspaper boy putting the paper inside the resident's screen door to protect it from rain.

— December 12, 1974

One breaking and entering in the University Square Apartments did not result in any loss, but the responsible party left five chickens and a pig in the resident's apartment. No motive has been devel-

**HISTORY from page one** damental meaning of a free press."

During the 4-year legal struggle, the Freedom of the Press Committee collected over \$30,000 from the community to help meet legal expenses and to pay the judgment in case of an unsuccessful appeal, (\$20,000 was later returned to contributors).

## Staffing

The entire staff consists of volunteer workers, most of whom have joined the paper as their contribution to their community's activities. Since March, 1957, nominal payments have been authorized to the editorial staff and to columnists — when finances permit, of course. There have been 39 changes in editorship during the paper's 40 years, attesting to the difficulty of this job; the position is at present held by Mary Lou Williamson and there are 37 staff members.

At present over 5,800 free copies of the News Review are distributed weekly to homes in Greenbelt, including Springhill Lake and Greenbriar.

oped for this somewhat peculiar incident.

— March 4, 1976

Twelve animal complaints were received during the week. Two animals were impounded. A resident of a Springhill Lake apartment reported a skunk that had taken refuge from the cold in her hallway. It was finally coaxed back outside with no lingering effects.

— February 10, 1977

Nineteen animal complaints were reported during the week. Several concerned a duck that residents reported seeing at the intersection of Lastner Lane and Crescent Rd. It had apparently tired of life at the lake as it was returned there several times and did not want to stay.

The Animal Warden was also given custody of a Rhode Island Red chicken that mysteriously appeared in the Administrative Offices at Eleanor Roosevelt High School Wednesday afternoon. It was transported to the Agricultural Research Center and turned over to the Poultry Division.

— March 24, 1977

Nineteen animal complaints were received during the week. Five animals were impounded including a chipmunk that bit a child and a large dog that bit an officer.

— October 6, 1977

## Congratulations to a Fellow-Cooperative on its 40th Anniversary

from

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. celebrating its

25th Anniversary, January 1978!

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Over the years we have observed both Greenbelt citizens and their elected officials step outside their normal routines and really go to bat for this city. Here is an editorial which pays homage to council for the successes won by their extra efforts made on behalf of all of us.

## Council Praised Again

For the second time within two months, the city council's audacity, perserverance, and verve have paid off. Through its personal intervention, council has been successful in persuading State officials to reverse earlier decisions adverse to Greenbelt.

The first occasion was an appeal in April to the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice for full Federal funding of the Greenbelt CARES program. The city's arguments were sufficiently convincing to secure another \$13,140 in grant money (equivalent to 2+ cents on the tax rate).

The second occasion was last week's trip to Baltimore to persuade the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to approve a sewer connection for the proposed Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Again the city was successful when they pointed out how the need for the facility merited an exception to the sewer moratorium.

On other occasions the council has not hesitated to make its physical presence felt. Included, for example, have been trips to Annapolis, Baltimore, Upper Marlboro, and Hyattsville on the shifting of the METRO station, on municipal tax differential legislation, and on the Greenbriar sewage treatment plant.

While not always successful, the council is fast building up a reputation as a political body that carries a lot of clout. When Greenbelt talks, people listen. And a great part of this is attributable to the willingness of council members along with the city manager and his staff to travel that extra mile, to make that extra personal contact, and to deliver that extra statement.

— July 3, 1974

At times, a push in the right direction helps launch a major offensive. The editorial below is such an example.

## Half a High School?

Greenbelters again have an opportunity to vitally affect school board decisions with respect to the Franklin D. Roosevelt senior high school which is scheduled to open in Sept. 1976. The board is wrestling with two questions: from which communities will students be drawn for the new school and to what extent will FDR be a dual purpose school and depart from its original concept as a comprehensive (general academic) school. The latest proposal receiving much support on the school board is to allocate no less than half the school's capacity for a career technology (trades technician) center.

The two questions are interrelated. For even if all Greenbelt area students are assigned to FDR, the establishment of FDR as a dual purpose school could shortchange these students in that the school might not be able to provide a full-scale academic curriculum. Just as seriously, any attempts to convert the school into a career technology center at this time is bound to cause disruption, delay, confusion and the need for additional funding. The changes in programming, scheduling, and staffing required by the opening of a new school take months to process and implement. Other senior high schools in the county would be affected by such changes.

It is a fact that interested, knowledgeable and well organized citizens can have great impact on a political body. This means attending special meetings such as the one held last night with Greenbelt's representative on the school board, Lesley Kreimer; attending the next school board meeting in Upper Marlboro on December 18 at 7:30 p.m.; and attending public hearings on FDR not yet scheduled, but expected in January.

We urge Greenbelters to discuss the issues, question the proposals and participate in the decision making process. The time is now, not after it is too late.

— December 11, 1975

## Sights Too Low

The city council on Monday, August 5, will hold a public hearing to get citizen views on the city acquisition of parkland in parcel 1. Parcel 1 consists of about 100 acres located north of Northway extended between the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. property and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

About two years ago the city received 14 acres of surplus Agricultural Research Center land just east of Parcel 1. Under the terms of the donation by the Federal Government, the city must augment the surplus land with the acquisition of 15 additional acres in parcel 1 and develop a park plan for the two tracts.

The council now has before it plans to purchase about 28 acres of the 100-acre tract. We do not feel that the council has set its sights high enough.

Parcel 1 is one of the last major pieces of undeveloped land in the Greenbelt core. We know only too well from our experiences with other tracts — Smith-Ewing being the latest — that the only way for Greenbelt to make certain that it will control the destiny of vacant land within its boundaries is to acquire ownership of major portions thereof.

We are well aware that a land acquisition program of this nature will be costly and require a bond issue. But the consequences of not acting are worse. It will do the citizens of Greenbelt little good five or ten years from now, when faced with traffic and environmental problems caused by high density development of landlocked parcel 1, to know that their council of 1974 "saved" them several hundred thousands of dollars by not pursuing an aggressive land acquisition program.

What must be remembered is that the city will have only one chance of acquiring the land. Once the land is committed for development, it will be rear guard action from then on to protect the "planned community" concept in Greenbelt.

Let the council be bold and foresighted and ask for voter support for a bond issue to secure the necessary funds for land acquisition.

— July 25, 1974

## And Some Things Never Change

Controversies which ranged over Greenbelt's 40-year history emerged again during the past five years. Pets and pageants have drawn strong comments.

### DOGS AND POLLUTION

Last week I notified the city council that the presence of dog feces in the vicinity of my home was becoming a public nuisance affecting the health of my toddler who recently stumbled into a pile and the cleanliness of my shag rug onto which he tracked it. I requested that council recognize the problem and take action with it.

Council acknowledged the seriousness of the problem and noted that there were ordinances requiring owners to clean up after their pets. Council also observed that these ordinances are unenforceable. The police will not ordinarily take action unless a specific complaint is filed. People are reluctant, however to file complaints against their neighbors for relatively minor offenses.

Looked at as a whole it is not a minor problem. Communities the size of Greenbelt typically have more than four thousand dogs excreting more than a half ton of feces and nearly seven hundred gallons of urine each day on the streets and public areas. While being esthetically undesirable, it is also a health hazard to mix human beings with dogs and their excrement. More than forty diseases in the United States can be transmitted from dogs to humans. The better known are ringworm, roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, fleas and rabies.

I consider this to be the most serious pollution problem facing our city . . .

— January 29, 1976

I want to add my voice to the person who pointed out the real dangers of uncontrolled animal wastes in our public areas, and especially those that are used by children as playgrounds. In a recent "60 Minutes" television program, this health hazard was given a thorough investigation. The one great danger, according to authorities, is that the eggs of the various parasite worms can stay dormant for a year or more, surviving hot summers and cold winters, until they get into the proper environment such as the stomach of an animal or a human, where worms can then cause physical damage and produce still more eggs. Although animal feces are revolting to most people, the wastes generally do disintegrate after a time and blow away or are washed away, but the barely visible eggs stay on the ground, just waiting for the youngsters to find them a new home . . .

If persons want to keep pets, I feel that they should have the responsibility for insuring that pet wastes are kept and cleaned up in their own yards and that they, and the animals themselves are not a threat to others.

— February 5, 1976

Three hundred tons (left by dogs) sounds like a heavy inundation in a year's time - but that's 821.91 pounds a day — and that still sounds like a lot.

But when you divide by the square footage, it is only .000,000,131 pounds per square foot or 1/50,000 of an ounce!

Heavy inundation? Hardly!

March 11, 1976

In the meantime, the chief of the Greenbelt Police Force declared today "War on Poop," as he presented each of his 17 patrolmen with brass-handled, individually engraved pooper scoopers. These patrolmen have as their sole responsibility over a 24-hour period, beginning today, picking up dog and cat droppings and incarcerating any offending animal within the city limits of Greenbelt.

Pet owners may recover their animals only on written promise of purchasing their own brass-handled, individually engraved scoop which the police will be selling at the bargain price of \$19.95.

April Fool's Issue - 1976

### MISS GREENBELT

I was indeed sorry to see that the unfortunate Miss Greenbelt contest has now been extended to include even younger girls. How trivial indeed are the imaginations of the sponsors, who will take that marvelous being, a human, and assume that with all those glorious potentialities for creativity, for generosity, for abstract thinking and insist that the most important qualities to be found in young women are big bosoms, shapely legs, flashing smiles, "personality", and specious talents.

We hear too much about chauvinist male pigs, as if they were the great enemy. It is the woman who unthinkingly accepts herself as a lesser creature whose greatest role is to be a sex partner and mother—both of which achievements she shares with other animals — who is the greater problem . . .

The prize for the "talent" . . . is a scholarship . . . itself ridiculous — at a school for modeling.

— July 3, 1974

In regard to the letter titled "Here Own Worst Enemy" in the July 3, 1974 News Review. I for one am sick and tired of hearing about Women's Liberation. I am a woman, not a man. I look like a woman, not a man; I want to be treated like a woman, not a man.

I am a former "Miss Greenbelt" and I am very proud of it. I don't consider myself a lesser creature due to the fact that I am a wife and an eventual candidate for motherhood.

No girl is being forced to participate in the competition, nor is anyone being forced to attend the program.

Some of us still believe that beauty is an attribute to some as intelligence is to others. As far as the modeling scholarship goes, some girls who excel in beauty, would love to be a model, or even a chance to be one. This scholarship may be the door to a career many girls dream of. It is the same as if one who excels in science wants very badly to go to college and try to attain a career as a scientist. In essence, no one has the right to condemn any one person's goals or priorities in this life.

— July 11, 1974

The News Review has taken editorial stands on many topics during its lifetime. We have not always been right, our views have not always been shared by the citizenry, but here is a position we have taken that we are proud of.

## Next Steps

The latest addition to the city's recreation program — the Springhill Lake Recreation Center — was the source of much praise and admiration at last Sunday's dedication ceremony. The beautiful new facility with a full-scale air-conditioned gymnasium is one that the citizens can well be proud of.

The citizens can also be proud that they had the foresight in November 1968 to approve a \$950,000 bond issue which made this facility, along with many other needed improvements, a reality. At that time, there was concern over the impact the bond issue might have on the tax rate, but the majority proved ready to make the necessary financial sacrifice for the benefit of the entire community.

Among the benefits accruing to the city from the 1968 bond issue were: (1) the city purchase of parcels 7 and 8 (near Boxwood Village entrance), and the purchase of the south shore of Greenbelt Lake, thus forestalling commercial and high-density apartment development of open-space land; (2) the expansion of the city's recreation facilities by the construction of an addition to the Youth Center (Golden Age lounge, etc) and the purchase of the Ridge Road Center (former Lutheran Church property); (3) construction of much-needed fire station addition; (4) the addition of such new recreation facilities as lighted tennis courts; and (5) highway improvements such as a new access to Springhill Lake apartments (Gentry Drive) and the reconstruction and beautification of Southway entrance.

In the next few years, the city will once again be faced with meeting the growing needs of a progressive community — needs that will be adequately met only through a bond issue. To name a few, purchase of parcels 1 and 2 near GHI and parcel 15 near Charlestowne Village to prevent high-density development, construction of new ballfields to serve a growing population in all parts of town, construction of a new police station and/or an addition to a city municipal building already outgrown, and development of outdoor recreation facilities at Springhill Lake such as tennis courts.

Once again, the council and citizens will have to pull together and exercise the necessary foresight to assure that Greenbelt will continue to provide its citizens with the services which have made the city a wholesome, wonderful place in which to live.

— September 25, 1975

Do not grace, poise, tact, self-confidence and — yes — beauty play an important role in social interaction, specifically the pursuit of success? When her future Madame Curies ascend the dais to accept their Nobel prizes, how would she have them appear? Presumably T-shirted and braless, heavy-footed and glowering, for femininity would have been abandoned as somehow "de-meaning" to womanhood.

Next, with a certitude just short of inspirational, Miss X . . . makes the assumption that if the contestants' time were not occupied in such "trivial" pursuits as beauty pageants, they would be elsewhere making conquests in science and the arts. Well, maybe. But the laws of probability suggest other wise. In a given random group, only half the constituents are likely to be possessed of above-average intelligence. Of that less generously invested, is it not more reasonable to assume that their spare time, by virtue of their interests and aptitudes, would most likely find them at Greenbelt Center discussing the merits of Jamaican boo rather than at their desks devising a formula for depolluting the atmosphere? I think so.

Further, Miss X . . . arbitrarily ascribes an intrinsic superiority to intellectual over physical excellence. Best she forbear propounding that theory to Chris Evert! — or, more to the point, Raquel Welch. No, Miss Welch has never been accused of intellectual or artistic overkill. Yet her canny exploitation of those womanly traits which Miss X . . . so fervently deplores has made her a 24-karat success — a success of such monumental, er, proportions that, were they to be honest, most women of lesser attainment would admit to envy. By belittling physical comeliness as an end unto itself, Miss X . . . defeats the very cause she professes to espouse. Generally applied, her standards would condemn to a life of hopelessness and second-class status that whole group of women who happen to be less formidably endowed cerebrally than corporeally.

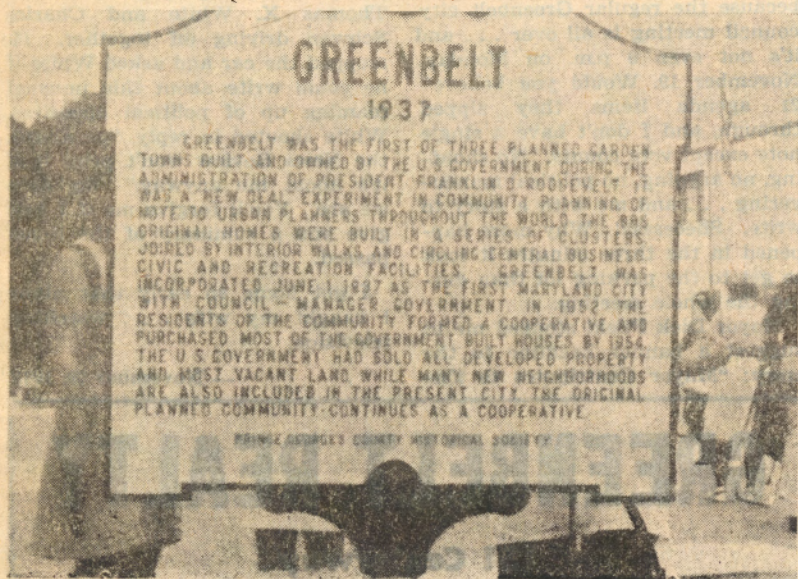
Finally, Miss X . . . ignores one immutable, universal truth: Girls are pretty; boys aren't.

Aw, gee, Miss X . . . loosen up. Don't take yourself so seriously. Relax and enjoy the pageant.

— July 11, 1974



## HISTORIC MARKERS



Here is the historical plaque that was dedicated at last Friday's Independence Day celebration. It will be placed at the Southway entrance to the city.



## Bicentennial Activities Three Historic Markers

During the Bicentennial plans were made for the placing of at least three historic markers. The one pictured above commemorates "Greenbelt - 1937 . . . the first of three planned garden towns." The other two call attention to some of the very early pioneer settlers in the area.

### Wild Cat Farm

The "Wild Cat Farm" of Sarah and Shadrick Turner, dating back to 1769, will be the site of Greenbelt's first Bicentennial event this Sunday, April 27 at 3:30 p.m. An historical marker will be placed along Edmonston Road just north of the State Highway Administration complex, locating the cemetery and homesite of the Turner family.

The marker is being erected through the contributions of United Methodist churches in the area and with the cooperation of the Greenbelt Bicentennial Committee. The Prince Georges County Historical Society is a sponsor.

#### Early History

In 1759 Sarah and Shadrick Turner purchased "Wild Cat Farm", 6 miles north of the port of Bladensburg. The farm, with dwelling house and farm buildings, cost them 35 pounds, 10 shillings sterling. Shadrick was a landowner and planter of moderate means.

Written accounts of a traveling Methodist minister, Bishop Francis Asbury, tell of his nine visits to the home of Sarah and Shadrick between 1777 and 1803. Asbury found the home a resting place in his travels from Virginia and Georgetown to Baltimore.

A stained glass window in the Hyattsville Methodist Church commemorates this early figure in its history: "Shadrick Turner, lying near Bladensburg, in whose home Asbury and other early circuit riders visited and preached and whom we honor as a founder of the church in Bladensburg, our direct and original church ancestor." By 1791 Turner's group is recorded to have had 40 members, and in 1793 the Bladensburg Methodist Episcopal Church was recognized by the Baltimore Conference.

According to the church's history "The County Census of 1776, as published in Brumbaugh's Maryland Records gives Shadrick's age as 48 and his wife Sarah's as 38. There were nine children between the ages of 25 and 1 year. They also had four male slaves. The family is recorded also in the 1790 Census, the first taken by the United States government.

"Shadrick made his will in 1797 and died two years later."

In 1935 the Resettlement Administration bought the property which was still owned by the Turner family. The family moved out of the area.

### Toaping Castle

PEPCO has announced plans to designate its proposed Greenbelt substation, scheduled for completion in 1979, "Greenbelt Toaping Castle Substation" in commemoration of a historic residence which once stood near the proposed site.

Toaping Castle, which was located near the area of Greenbelt Road and the Beltway, was a large oak-log home built in the early 1750's by the Isaac Walker family in memory of their beloved stronghold of the same name in their homeland Scotland.

Forced to flee and obtain temporary secrecy and security in France when George I was crowned King of England and Scotland, Isaac, Charles and Nathan Walker later came to America to settle and start a new life. They built their new Toaping Castle in America, and when they considered it safe to acknowledge identity, obtained a patent for the land on which it stood. Isaac remained at this residence in Maryland and raised a family, whereas his brothers moved to Kentucky and then to Mississippi, the Hon. R. J. Walker being of the same stock.

Isaac Walker's Toaping Castle was subsequently the birthplace of a number of heroic individuals, including Captain Samuel Hamilton Walker, celebrated member of the Texas Rangers, and Charles T. Walker, who in 1844 constructed the original home of Washington's present McKendree United Methodist Church.

When completed the Greenbelt Toaping Castle Substation will house electrical distribution equipment to serve the Greenbelt community and the surrounding area. It will be located on Greenbelt Road adjacent to the Beltway.

The historic title was adopted in cooperation with the Greenbelt Bicentennial Committee which plans to place a state historic marker near the site.

— April 22, 1976

#### Cemetery

In 1941 the cemetery was deeded to the City of Greenbelt and is now called the Greenbelt Cemetery. Known graves include that of Thomas Patrick Turner who died September 25, 1855 before the age of 16. It is believed that other family members dating back to the time of Shadrick are buried there as are the Turner family slaves.

— April 24, 1975

## GRAVE MUSINGS - or a View of the Cemetery

by Steve Gunn

The day that I am sent to the cemetery dawns overcast and turns sunny and muggy in the afternoon.

To get to the graveyard, the official Greenbelt cemetery, you turn left at an unmarked road just past where Kenilworth Ave. becomes Edmonston Rd. The unmarked lane is newly paved and runs past beer bottles and Gino's bags, past water and chemically corroded land, past salt storage piles and past a dunce-cap-like structure that will ultimately house the salt.

After the pavement stops, a 100 yard walk up a gravel rutted road brings you to the cemetery. The graveyard seems about 100 yards long and about 25 yards wide surrounded by both a chain-link fence and a single chain fence.

The graveyard is flat and divided into eight plots. Some of the plots are empty. Two have two flat markers. There are six markers and about fifty bodies in the cemetery.

Many of the bodies were dug up from local family cemeteries when Greenbelt was first built. Some had markers, but recently these markers have been put in storage to prevent vandalism.

A man was buried there just a few weeks ago, apparently the first since 1961. A five inch shrub guards his unmarked grave. His funeral was a simple one. Wreaths that had faced his grave were tossed over the fence and into the woods after the service. Only a dark red and yellow satin ribbon still evidences the wreath's short existence.

In the gray morning I pull weeds from the gravel walk that subdivides the cemetery. The weeds are periodically pulled and a herbicide applied to permanently kill their growth I'm told but they always grow back. The weeds, of all varieties from clover to crabgrass, are piled in small stacks and then thrown into the woods to decay.

Elvis Presley croons from a tape deck as another person and myself pull weeds among the silent graves.

The afternoon sun finds me alone in the graveyard.

The grass on the plots needs cutting, it is an uneven six inches high. I slowly push a rusted, yellow lawnmower around and around. The grass is too thick and still wet from the morning dew for the grass catcher, so the clippings fly to the right.

I pause as I walk across each marker to read the name and inscriptions. Actually, only one has an inscription, the rest are simply names and dates. "Mary Faith Floyd O'Neale Strickland 1888-1961" or "Leslie H. Walter 1867-1953."

"He brought me out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock. Ps. 40:2" Charles Merwyn Johnston, says a copper faded plate soon hidden by grass clippings. The person had died at age 21.

I go around the only two above surface markers, a lily and bushes surround them. A cotton-tail rabbit had earlier run into the island of safety provided by the death monuments.

The lawnmower's blade hits a rut and stalls out. The rut runs toward the new grave, with its five inch bush and 'L'-shaped dirt bare area. The ground must have been soft that day they brought the casket to its resting place.

I avoid walking on the newly seeded, clay area. Perhaps the casket is only six inches below the surface, not six feet. One never knows. The sun beats down on the hard dirt area, as I cut around it. Cockroaches and ants walk across the place, amid the ungerminating grass seed.

I finish the cutting and sit in silence on the mower. Bird chirps and wet leaves above my head combine to give the area the appearance of a tropical rain forest.

The jeep arrives to take me back. By the way, the driver asks, did anybody grab my leg? I just smile.

— August 14, 1975

## A SHADE OF BLUE

by Janet James

I am so glad that some shade of blue is in the colors for the Eleanor Roosevelt High School. I met Mrs. Roosevelt several times, and she was always wearing blue. I believe the dress she wore the first time I met her was close to an aqua blue.

When I first came to Washington as a young woman, I lived in a girls' boarding club sponsored by a church organization of which Mrs. Roosevelt was the National President. When the Roosevelts came to Washington, the local branch of the church organization gave a tea for Mrs. Roosevelt at our house.

In those days one wore hats and gloves to teas. I wore my hair straight then, and my Spring straw hat was purchased for straight hair. Marcel waves for hair were stylish in those days, and the other young women in the house insisted that I get one for the occasion of the tea. Alas, when I went to put on my hat, it was almost impossible to get it down over those curls. Several of us pulled, and finally got it on.

I knew the local officer who was introducing the guests to Mrs. Roosevelt, so when it was my turn the introduction went, "Mrs. Roosevelt, this is my good friend, Miss Janet James."

With that, my hat popped up and sat loosely on those marcel waves. I tried to look up at Mrs. Roosevelt, and the hat rode down over my eyes. There was nothing to do but push it up on top of the waves again, where it rode precariously. Mrs. Roosevelt said, quite solemnly, "How do you do, Miss Janet James." But I, Miss talkative Janet James, was dumb with embarrassment. I shook hands with her, and then I saw the cutest little twinkle in her eye and it brought me out of my embarrassment. To have handled that situation without adding to my embarrassment proves to me that she was indeed a true and lovely lady — a beautiful person as we would say nowadays.

I am happy that our High School is named for her and that one of the school colors is one that she wore often — blue!

— April 22, 1976

## Greenbelt Grab-bag . . .

by Punchin' Judy

**Pisces** - The sun is in your birth sign right now, enhancing your psychic powers. See if you can use them to find out what will happen at the Golden Triangle.

**Aries** - Your energy is high and spring is springing in your heart. Good time for a daily jog to the lake.

**Taurus** - Your sign is the bull, and you are reputed to be very determined. Use that determination to get a garden started. And stay out of china shops.

**Gemini** - Nobody is better than this sign at communicating, and communicating. The News Review could use you as a reporter.

**Cancer** - Moon children, you are the putters of this world. Good month to putter around the yard, if it doesn't snow.

**Leo** - You are charming, dramatic, intelligent, talented, and attractive. Our - oops, I mean your - finest quality is modesty. Take a crocus to lunch.

**Virgo** - Neat and tidy, Virgos are wonderful around home or office. You'd be so nice to have around the News Review. Take a Leo to lunch.

**Libra** - Librans have trouble making decisions. The only decision you have no trouble making is that you are the greatest. Often you're right.

**Scorpio** - Scorpions are bright and lively and good talkers, but have a bit of a stinger. You do very well at civic meetings. How would you like to cover them for a local newspaper of great repute?

**Sagittarius** - You speak little, but generally to the point. Travel is in your future. Get a 10-speeder and try some of our bike trails.

**Capricorn** - You are strong and stalwart, a good walker. Take a long walk in the woods and commune with nature.

**Aquarius** - The moon may not be in your seventh house, but there is usually harmony in your own residence. You are the last sign on this list, which is a good thing, since the crystal ball is suffering from energy shortage and just turned off.

— March 17, 1977

## Congratulations News Review

from

### BEN FRANKLIN STORE

Harry Weiner, Proprietor

109 Centerway

474-5656

Greenbelt, Md.

## 1937 - 1977 - 2017

Over the past 40 years the News Review has been responsible for many, and assisted in most, of the worthwhile things that have happened in Greenbelt - things that make living in Greenbelt so satisfying and stimulating.

During the next 40 years life in Greenbelt will become more complex; more varied interests will be represented here; some of our old organizations and institutions will be going stale; others will have to run faster even to stay where they have been.

A bigger, more inquiring critical News Review will be needed to help all of us meet the demands and the opportunities that lie ahead without losing the essentials as well as the flavor of our unique community.

We know that Greenbelt will support such a paper. Twin Pines will do its part.

(Reprinted from the 25th anniversary)

## Twin Pines Savings & Loan Assn.



## ... We Get Praised ...

Congratulations on the fine article which you placed in the last issue of the newspaper concerning the referendum and elderly housing. It is fine to see the news media state the issue as it is.

— August 26, 1976

This letter is addressed to the new and not so new citizens of Greenbelt who enjoy receiving a free copy of the *News Review* delivered to your door each Thursday night. I think this delightful informative publication is one of the ways Greenbelt has maintained its cohesiveness throughout the years. Many former Greenbelters from as far away as Europe still subscribe to the *News Review* to keep posted on things at home. For some senior citizens, I have been told, this is the only contact with the outside world for weeks at a time.

The *News Review* is a non-profit, volunteer paper; the carriers

receive very little monetary compensation — an average of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cent per paper. Since November, when I took over the circulation, it has managed to rain or snow almost every Thursday night. Many of our carriers have had the flu and substitutes have been great — carrying 200 papers over strange routes — in the dark; some even carried double routes.

Please remember when you see a cold, wet and tired carrier in your yard on Thursday night, some of it may have rubbed off on your paper. But, like the carrier, it will dry and look a little less tired in half an hour.

You probably know your *Post* and *Star* carriers, your milkman and mailman. In the next few weeks, I plan to let you know a little about your *News Review* Carrier.

— March 28, 1974

My brother ... was a feature

writer on the *Chicago Daily News* for 15 years and likes newspapers. Ever since I first discovered what a remarkable little paper our *News Review* is, I have saved copies for him, sending him two or three months' papers in a bundle. I received a Valentine from him and his wife in which he wrote:

"Happy Valentine's Day to Mayor Pilski, Charlie Schwan, Roy Brea-shears, Mrs. Hutzler, Chairman Smith, Eunice Coxon, Thomas X. (White), Kathy Keene, Al Skolnik, and all the other wonderful people that move through the pages of the *Greenbelt News Review* like characters from a Dickens novel."

— February 27, 1975

The *News Review* provides an excellent forum for the expression of a wide variety of views including a generous amount of criticism or praise for actions of the GHI board and management ...

— February 27, 1975

## ... And We Get Rebuked ...

There is no question that the *News Review* performs a public service in reporting on city council meetings, but Mr. Reporter, your bias is showing. The report on the Feb. 23 meeting was cute, well-written, not very informative ...

— March 11, 1976

I was reading your newspaper, if you can call it that, and low and behold at the bottom of one of the inside pages, tucked away where I'm sure no one saw it, you announced the fact that a Health Fair was being held in the Beltway Plaza Mall.

On the other hand, the fact that a "Miss Greenbelt Contest" was being held occupied the top of the front page. Now ain't that some pumpkins! But isn't it typical, not only of the *Greenbelt News Review*, but of the yellow journalistic rabble rousing newspaper business ... anything that would give you an opportunity to drag somebody through the mire, you would de-

vote the whole front page to. You are not any better than the *Washington Post* or the *New York Daily News* or any other scandal sheet which will never promote good or useful events but will always be sure and wash everybody's dirty linen in public and delight in their misfortunes.

— July 29, 1976

I have read and re-read your "correction" of the *News Review's* original article on the performance of the Parkdale Symphonic Band in both the County and the State Instrumental Music Festivals. I can only conclude that the "correction" is more inaccurate or, at best, incomplete than the original story ...

— April 24, 1973

It was very interesting to read in your account of the city council meeting that the Greenbriar issue can be likened to "Watergate". That may be truer than you realize. It is unfortunate that the record

of the *News Review* can not compare to the vigorous reporting of the *Washington Post*. I am sure that the several citizens who were in attendance at that meeting were probably wondering if they really were there after reading the doctored account of your reporter ...

Of course, we couldn't expect the *News Review* to report as I am in this letter, but it would be nice to read accounts that approach what actually happened, rather than the fairy tales we are treated to by your reporters ...

— June 21, 1973

Nothing is more meaningful than an old saying, "a man's judgment is no better than his information." In its front page story last week, the *Greenbelt News Review* once again has shortchanged GHI members in its skimpy reporting of the facts, sans by-line ...

— May 10, 1973

## Our Reporter

by Bob McGee

So there I'm sitting — aghast — because the regular Greenbelt city council meeting is all over ... and it's not even 9 p.m. on Monday, November 19. Would you believe? 21 agenda items they zipped through, and I don't have a single note except vote counts. No shouting, no arguing, no political maneuvering ... and me with a story to write. Sheeeessss! Why more happened in the three minutes it took to get to the parking lot than during the whole meeting.

Mayor Dick Pilski stopped me to suggest a banner headline to the story: "Mayor Contributes to En-

ergy Crisis; Cuts Hot Air Off Early." Then, in the parking lot, this reporter thought he had the makings of a real scoop when he detected, of all people, councilmen Thomas X. White and Charles Schwan driving off together. He stopped the car and asked White if he could write about this unusual teaming up of political opposites. White shouted in reply, "go ahead, the *News Review* won't print it if it's about me anyway." So, here we are. You'll forgive me if I just give you a summary of the items passed.

I got home so early that night I caught my wife ... watching television.

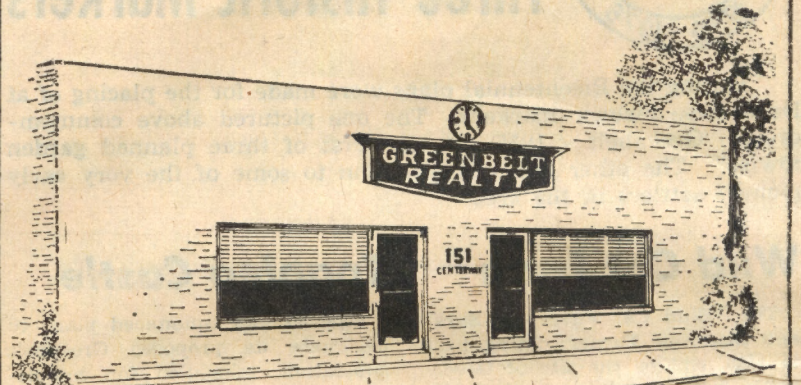
— November 29, 1973

## GREENBELT REALTY

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# Congratulations

GREENBRIAR ASSOCIATES wish to  
extend heartiest congratulations  
to the Greenbelt News Review  
for Forty Years of  
dedicated service to the community

GREENBRIAR, GLEN OAKS, and WINDSOR GREEN